the cited document is not contained in the cited document DB, then the staff in the intellectual property right acquirement support section is prompted on the screen of the PC to input a cited document having the corresponding number with a scanner in S2709. If there is another cited document, the processes in S2708 to S2709 are repeated. Afterwards, the processes in S2801 to [S 2806] S2806 are similar to the processes in S2305 to S2310 shown in FIG. 23. Therefore, the detailed explanation is omitted here. Then, the process in FIG. 24 is performed. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 49, line 15, and ending at page 50, line 6, as follows:

-- In each document number, items such as a source, an obtaining date, a summary, a point of rejection, a differentiation point in the present application, etc., are displayed[,]. Reference numeral 2905 displays all related documents of the family (in this case, US, EP, AU, and JP) of the case. In this example, four cases except the US case, that is 'DE1200001' in the EP case, 'USP123456' in the AU case, 'USP123456' in the CA case, and 'Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 06-12345' in the JP case, are cited. The source (for example, a search report (SR)), the obtaining date, the summary, etc., of each case are displayed. Furthermore, the IDS information indicating whether or not the IDS (information disclosure procedure) has been completed in the U.S. (US) and China (CN) is displayed together. The IDS information can be displayed by one flag with US combined with CN as shown in FIG. 29. US and CN can have respective information, and can be displayed independently. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 50, line 7, and ending at page 50, line 13, as follows:

-- Thus, the related documents can be displayed for each family, and the status of the IDS of the related documents can be displayed, thereby preventing the omission of the IDS, easily considering documents cited in the examinations in other countries for acquirement of a patent right, and efficiently acquiring effective [right] rights. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 52, line 11, and ending at page 53, line 4, as follows:

-- Reference numeral 3201 denotes the case number of the present case. Reference numeral 3202 denotes the names of the staffs in the development right acquirement support section and the intellectual property right acquirement section and their access addresses. Reference numeral 3203 denotes the summary of the present case. Reference numeral 3204 denotes an approval stamp. Reference numeral 3205 denotes the type of office action. Reference numeral 3206 denotes a product of the company, the execution plan of the company, and the products of other companies in which the invention of this case is implemented. Reference numeral 3207 denotes comments of the studying persons in the development section and the development right acquirement support section. Reference numeral 3208 denotes a list of the documents cited in the case. The list shows items of a flag indicating whether or not the document has been disclosed by the prior art in US and CN, the summary of the

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cited document, the portion corresponding to the notice of reasons for rejection, and the differentiation point. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 56, line 13, and ending at page 56, line 25, as follows:

--   Reference numeral 203 denotes a database connected to the network in the domestic firm 112, and stores the information transmitted to and received from Patent Office. Reference numeral 204 denotes a storage device storing data by applicants connected to the network in the domestic firm 112. Reference numeral 205 denotes a host computer connected to the network in the domestic firm 112. The domestic firm 112 is connected to Patent Office 114 through the Internet and a telephone line 206. Similarly, the domestic firm 112 is connected to the head office 107, and the Corporation B 201 is connected to the Corporation C 202 also through the Internet and a telephone line 207. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 62, line 21, and ending at page 63, line 1, as follows:

--   First, in step S4700, documents such as an idea sheet, a proposal document, the specification of an application, a notice of rejection, an argument, an amendment, etc., are accumulated in the document server 114, and it is determined in step 4701 whether or not a predetermined time has passed. For example, when one day passed, a document transfer process [to] overseas is started at midnight. --.